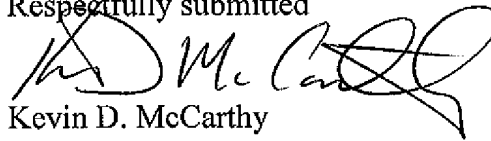


Since the cited documents, in any combination, could not have led a person skilled in art to synthesize the multifunctional compounds as defined in the amended claims, it is respectfully submitted that the claims, in view of the amendments and the above explanations, are now ready for allowance and are earnestly requested to be allowed.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin D. McCarthy', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin D. McCarthy  
Reg. No. 35,278

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